

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A catheter comprising:
 - a proximal shaft having a proximal end, a distal end and an inflation lumen;
 - a distal shaft connected at a proximal end to the distal end of the proximal shaft and having an inflation lumen in fluid communication with the inflation lumen of the proximal shaft, wherein the distal shaft includes a guidewire shaft having a guidewire lumen;
 - an exchange joint located adjacent the proximal end of the distal shaft for access to the guidewire lumen; and
 - a catheter conversion shaft having a proximal end and a distal end with a guidewire lumen, the catheter conversion shaft having a clip portion at the distal end thereof for detachably securing the catheter conversion shaft over the exchange joint of the catheter such that the guidewire lumen thereof is in communication with the guidewire lumen of the distal shaft.
2. The catheter of claim 1, wherein the catheter conversion shaft includes a guidewire exit for access to the guidewire lumen of the catheter conversion shaft.
3. The catheter of claim 2, wherein the guidewire exit comprises a guide member that is slidable on the catheter conversion shaft.
4. The catheter of claim 3, wherein the catheter conversion shaft further includes a longitudinal cut that allows access to the guidewire lumen via the slidable guide member.

5. The catheter of claim 1, wherein the exchange joint is located in a transition shaft of the catheter that includes an outer surface and an outer diameter.

6. The catheter of claim 5, wherein the clip portion includes an inner surface and an inner diameter, wherein the inner diameter of the clip portion and the outer diameter of the transition shaft are substantially the same size, such that the clip portion of the catheter conversion portion may be frictionally fit on the transition shaft of the catheter.

7. The catheter of claim 6, wherein the outer surface of the transition shaft is in contact with the inner surface of the clip portion when the catheter conversion shaft is attached to the transition shaft.

8. The catheter of claim 1, wherein a frictional fit secures the clip portion of the catheter conversion shaft in place over the exchange joint.

9. The catheter of claim 5, wherein the clip portion includes an inner surface and an inner diameter, wherein the inner diameter comprises one of a plurality of variable sizes.

10. The catheter of claim 9, wherein the catheter may be any RX catheter model.

11. A catheter conversion shaft component comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a guidewire lumen;
a proximal guidewire exit for access to the guidewire lumen;
a clip portion disposed on the distal end of the shaft for detachably securing the catheter conversion shaft over a

proximal guidewire port of a rapid exchange catheter such that the guidewire lumen of the catheter conversion shaft component is in communication with a guidewire lumen of the rapid exchange catheter.

12. The catheter conversion shaft component of claim 11, wherein the guidewire exit comprises a guide member that is slidable on the shaft.

13. The catheter conversion shaft component of claim 12, further including a longitudinal cut along substantially the length of the shaft that allows access to the guidewire lumen via the slidable guide member.

14. The catheter conversion shaft component of claim 11, further including a clip inner diameter that may be sized and adapted to fit any off the shelf catheter model.